

2004 ELECTION

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He Hawai'i au. I am a Hawaiian, first and foremost. As a Hawaiian, I rely as much as possible on leadership principles derived from my traditional culture and employ them in a manner that honors the wisdom and ingenuity of my ancestors for the benefit of our children. It is a Hawaiian cultural imperative to give more than we receive, and serving on the Board of Education is an opportunity to fulfill the responsibility to give back to the community at least as much as I have been privileged to receive from it.

I am an educator and come from a family of educators. I was a social studies teacher at Kamehameha Schools, and over a dozen of my 'ohana have taught in public and independent schools in Hawai'i for the past 50 years. We've benefited from good educational opportunities and challenging life experiences, and have tried to create similar opportunities for our students.

Public schools in Hawai'i serve 80% of our school-aged children. Providing these students with safe, meaningful, and effective learning environments has always been at the core of public education, but tomorrow's challenges require much more. I support innovative educational initiatives that empower teachers and communities by matching the needs and interests of learners with the interests and resources of schools.

